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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Metro Parks, Nashville Blues Society & Arts in the Parks presents:

## **LEGENDS OF THE BLUES MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL – Memorial Day, May 26, 2008**



Nashville, TN --- Longtime Nashville Blues and R & B artist **James “Nick” Nixon** is this year’s featured performing artist at the **Legends of the Blues Music and Arts Festival on Memorial Day** in Centennial Park. The festival, which is free, will take place around **Lake Watauga on May 26 from noon to 7:00 p.m.**

The event features two stages, visual artists and food vendors set up along the beautifully landscaped walking path. Mainstage performances will take place in front of the Parthenon. The “Blues Experience” stage for children will be located at the north end of the Lake and the city’s beloved Parthenon will be open from noon to 5:00 p.m.

James “Nick” Nixon is well known for playing throughout the southeast and in Europe. Recipient of the Blues Foundation’s *Keep the Blues Alive Award for Blues Education*, he grew up in Nashville singing gospel music. In the mid-sixties, he fronted the groundbreaking group King James and the Scepters. Nick also played lead guitar and vocals for several decades with the New Imperials. Nick is backed by **The Legends** - some of Nashville’s most noted sidemen. They will be joined by special guest vocalist **Marion James**.

**Shardé Thomas** and the **Rising Star Fife and Drum Band**, who are scheduled to perform on the mainstage, will march around the lake. Miss Thomas is the granddaughter of Othar Turner the founder of “Rising Star” from Gravel Springs Mississippi. Additional bands on the Mainstage will include **The Fortunate Sons, Blue Mother Tupelo and the Beat Daddys**.

### **The Mainstage Performance:**

- 1:15 Beat Daddys
- 2:30 Blue Mother Tupelo
- 3:45 The Fortunate Sons
- 5:00 Shardé Thomas and the Rising Star Fife and Drum Band
- 5:30 Nick Nixon and the Legends with special guest Marion James

### **The Blues Experience Stage:**

- 12:15 Exploring the Blues – Hands On Music Making for Kids
- 1:45 Open Blues Jam Session – All musicians Welcome
- 2:45 Your Life as the Blues – Improv Blues Songs
- 4:00 Metro Parks’ Jam Band

The Legends of the Blues Festival is sponsored by Metro Parks, The Music City Blues Society and Arts in the Park. For more information call (615) 862-8424.